

National Science Foundation

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NSF Senior Review Update

Dear Colleagues,

As we look back over our first two senior review town meetings in Boston and Minneapolis, and look forward to this week's in DC and Clemson, some thoughts occurred to me that I would like to share with you. The first is to express thanks and satisfaction at the interest shown in the process by those of you who attended, and the thoughtful conversations we have been able to have with you. Seemingly in contradiction to this, we were at first a bit puzzled by the lack of input to the e-mail box on our web page and the sentiment expressed, in various ways, that broad community input would not make its way into the committee's deliberations.

As concrete assurance that this is not the case, let me repeat an observation I made at the close of the morning session in Minneapolis, in the form of a question to the participants. Could anyone recall a time in the past 25 years when three or four NSF program officers (including the Division Director and Executive Officer) spent a full day or more each week for at least seven weeks, sitting with you, explaining a process and listening to your concerns and opinions?

We at NSF, and the members of the committee, are committed to a process with as much community input and discussion as is possible. We are interested; we are concerned; we are listening. While our current schedule of town meetings goes only through the Berkeley meeting on 15 December, we are already thinking about more - including one at the January AAS and afterwards into January and February. We would welcome expressions of interest to host these, whether in areas of the country not yet covered or regions where renewed interest would make another meeting useful.

Please participate - this is the community's review about the community's future.

Wayne

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